

News Release

Senator Pete Domenici & Congressman Joe Skeen

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DOMENICI & SKEEN WELCOME ALBRIGHT DISCOURSE ON INTERNATIONAL TRAINING FACILITY FOR ROSWELL

Sec. of State Expected to Discuss ILEA During Talks in Santa Fe

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Pete Domenici and Congressman Joe Skeen today welcomed Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's upcoming visit to New Mexico where they expect her to provide an update on locating an international law enforcement training program in Roswell.

Albright will be in Santa Fe on Friday and Saturday to participate in the third U.S.-Canada- Mexico Trilateral Meeting. In draft remarks made available to the New Mexico lawmakers, Albright is expected to discuss the international law enforcement training program that Skeen and Domenici secured for Roswell.

After three years of negotiations, Domenici and Skeen reached an agreement with the State Department to locate an International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) training program at the deBremond National Guard facility in Roswell. Under the agreement, mid-to-senior law enforcement and criminal justice officials from several countries will be trained in southeast New Mexico. Skeen and Domenici, members of the House and Senate appropriations committees, respectively, secured \$10 million for the project to date.

"It has taken a lot of effort to keep this project alive, but I trust that Secretary Albright is now solidly behind this effort. I welcome Secretary Albright to New Mexico and hope she will shed more light on just how important this program can be in strengthening law enforcement in the Western Hemisphere. Once it gets rolling, I think the ILEA will be a bright feather in Roswell's cap," Domenici said.

"I'm pleased Secretary Albright has acknowledged this important project on her visit to our great state as we continue to make progress on the establishment of the facility," Skeen said. "I remain optimistic that this program will be up and running this fall so that we can begin to strengthen training efforts of mid to top tier law enforcement officials from throughout the world."

“New Mexico provides an excellent environment for international training programs and I am confident that law enforcement officials who participate in this program will receive high quality training. In addition, participants will have an opportunity to expand their law enforcement network around the world, a key factor in helping solve criminal cases,” Skeen said.

The ILEA program, which is expected to have an annual \$5 million budget, will offer courses similar to those provided at a typical university. Topics will include police organization and administration, urban and family violence prevention, civil disobedience and dissent, and psychology of criminal behavior.

Training facilities such as the one planned for Roswell have proven to be successful. For example, the facility in Budapest has enabled law enforcement officials to crack down on criminal activities involving the Russian mafia.

State Department officials are in the process of identifying entities to run the training program in Roswell. A public announcement is expected in late September.

The Roswell ILEA will train approximately 1,200 students a year, providing courses for foreign law enforcement officials similar to those taught at a typical criminal justice university.